

Year 2 Curriculum Overview

Autumn Term

Exploring Our World!

This document aims to give you information on the curriculum the children will be covering during the Autumn term.

English

As readers, they will continue to use and apply phonics to support fluent reading and comprehension. In guided reading lessons, they will be exposed to a wide range of genres, making links to current topics where possible. They will develop key reading skills, including prediction and making connections between texts.

In addition to guided reading, they will read for pleasure, enjoying a broad selection of books from the school library. A dedicated story time will allow them to be read to, helping to foster a love of reading and encouraging discussion. Exposure to a variety of authors will further enrich their reading experience.

Class readers include:

- ✓ Adventure: Nim's Island- Wendy Orr
- ✓ Fantasy: The Owl who was afraid of the dark by Jill Tomlinson
- ✓ Fairytale: Hansel & Gretel
- ✓ Poetry: The Night before Christmas by Clement Clarke Moore
- ✓ Non-fiction/reference book: Animals including humans, Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole & Judaism

As writers, they will dive into exciting stories and creative writing projects that spark imagination and develop key writing skills. We begin with The Rainbow Fish, exploring stories where characters learn from their flaws. The focus will be on description, helping children bring characters and settings to life. They'll invent their own versions of the tale through fun substitution activities. Next, we'll enjoy the traditional tale Hansel and Gretel, a classic rags-to-riches story. They will work on characterisation, then innovate by changing details and inventing a new version set on another continent! Letter writing will also feature, starting with a model letter from Hansel and Gretel's house. They will then write letters from the perspective of historical figures, such as Florence Nightingale.

Finally, we'll celebrate words through performance poetry, bringing the poem 'Stepping Out' to life with rhythm, expression and creativity.

Spellings will continue to be taught through daily phonics lessons. They will also practise handwriting, with a focus on clear ascenders and descenders and writing on the line. Once these skills are secure, they will be introduced to cursive writing.

Maths

Across the school, maths is structured using the NCETM programme, aligned with the DfE's Ready to Progress criteria. They will continue to learn through the concrete, pictorial and abstract approach, ensuring a deep understanding of mathematical concepts. Bar modelling and part-whole models will be used to support their problem-solving skills.

As mathematicians, they will develop fluency through mental maths sessions, following the progressive Number Sense programme. They will begin by recapping key Year 1 concepts, then move on to mental strategies for number bond recall and various representations of number, including ten frames and number

lines. In the second half of the term, they will begin learning their 10 times table, followed by the 5s and 2s, along with the corresponding division facts.

During maths lessons, they will build confidence with numbers and develop key calculation skills. They'll start by exploring the composition of multiples of 10, learning how tens combine to make bigger numbers. They will learn to represent numbers from 20 to 99, compare and order them and partition two-digit numbers into tens and ones. They'll practise calculations within 20 to strengthen their mental maths skills. Later in the term, the focus will move to addition and subtraction of two-digit numbers, using different strategies to solve problems and deepen understanding.

These lessons will help children develop strong number sense and prepare them for more complex maths in the future.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World – Science

As scientists, they will learn about animals, including humans. They will explore how humans grow and change, understand the basic needs for survival and learn how to stay fit, healthy and clean. They will record their findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts and tables.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World – History

As historians, they will explore changes in the local area, focussing on Vivary Park. They will compare its features and uses from 100 years ago to today, discussing similarities and differences. They will use photographs and written sources to investigate the past. Later in the term, they will begin a topic on significant individuals, studying Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World – Geography

As geographers, they will carry out a fieldwork study of Vivary Park. They will plan a route from school to the park, creating messy maps to represent it. During their visit, they will observe physical and human features, survey the facilities and interview members of the public to understand how the park is used.

Creative Development

In Art, they will study the artist Claude Monet. They will learn to use different sizes and shapes of paintbrushes, create wax-resist paintings using crayons and use collage materials to add detail to their work.

In Design Technology, they will design and make a festive Christmas decoration while practising key sewing and decorative techniques. They will learn how to cut threads and fibres, use a running stitch to join pieces together. They will add surface decorations using adhesives, beads, or buttons to create a unique and creative final product.

As musicians, the children will explore the exciting world of pulse and rhythm through songs, movement and musical games. They'll start by performing together to a steady beat, using actions and simple passing games to build confidence and teamwork. Through songs like March to the Beat, they'll discover the difference between pulse and rhythm and experiment with creating rhythms using varied instrumental sounds and dynamics. Working in groups and as a class, children will learn to play simple accompaniments for songs or poems, choosing suitable sounds and timbres. They'll also create their own four-beat rhythms and represent them using fun graphic notation, such as Beat Monsters! Alongside these activities, children will learn and perform songs for Harvest and Christmas, making music an enjoyable part of the season.

Computing

As computer experts, they will continue learning about privacy, security and online bullying. They will understand the importance of sharing information only with trusted individuals and explain why passwords are essential.

We begin by practising typing skills through fun activities using Dance Mat Typing, helping children improve speed and accuracy on the keyboard. Next, in Computer Systems and Networks – IT Around Us, children will explore how information technology is part of everyday life. They'll learn to identify examples of IT in school and beyond, and understand how its responsible use can improve our world. Finally, in Creating Media – Digital Music, they will use computers as tools for creativity. They'll experiment with rhythms and melodies before composing their own piece of digital music, combining musical ideas with technology.

Physical Development (PE)

This term in Year 2 they will be looking at multi-skills. This will be focussing on Agility, Balance and Coordination, recapping on the various skills they have learnt in previous years and ensure these skills are now beginning to develop. They will be using a variety of equipment and looking at a number of different games that children will be playing individually, in pairs and in small teams. They will also be working on cooperation, team work and confidence building in PE. They will also be focussing on racket sports in the second half of the term to build on the skills from Year 1.

RE & PSHE

In RE, they will explore the question: "What do Jewish people believe about the Torah?" Through discussion and enquiry, they will deepen their understanding of Jewish beliefs. They will also participate in the Infant Nativity and learn about the Christmas story.

In PSHE, they will explore the school values of resilience and friendship. They will discuss what it means to belong to a community and how to be global citizens.

Later in the term, they will focus on three key themes that help children understand and develop healthy relationships:

- ✓ Families and People Who Care for Us – exploring the different types of families and the importance of love, care and support.
- ✓ Respectful and Kind Relationships – learning how to treat others with kindness and respect in all situations.
- ✓ Caring Friendships – understanding what makes a good friend and how to build strong, positive friendships.

These lessons help children develop empathy, respect and the social skills they need to thrive both in and out of school.

Online Safety

This term, they will learn how to stay safe and make positive choices online. Our focus will be on two key themes:

- ✓ Privacy and Security – understanding why it's important to keep personal information private, how to create strong passwords and ways to protect themselves when using digital devices.
- ✓ Online Bullying – recognising what online bullying looks like, how it can affect others and what to do if they or someone they know experiences it.

These lessons help children build confidence and responsibility when using technology, ensuring they know how to stay safe and treat others with respect online.

French

Our key focus in French is on speaking and listening to explore new language structures and sounds. They will recap our Year 1 learning with songs and games, find out about more greetings, introductions and numbers (1-30) in French as well as what it is like to go back to school in France. Later in the term they will find out about Halloween, the Jour du Souvenir (Remembrance Day), in France as well as exploring the traditions of St. Nicolas and Noël.

Homework

Each week the children will have a Maths or English homework, which needs to be returned to school every Friday. They will also have weekly spellings to practise for a test every Monday.

In addition, there will be a topic homework menu which will consist of a bank of activities. These activities will vary from Design and Technology, Art, Maths, Science, English or Computing. An online safety and school values task will also be included. Children should complete at least two tasks. The purpose of this is to immerse the children within the topic and to give them a varied homework diet to showcase different talents.

We also ask that the children read every night for five minutes. Please sign your child's reading diary when you have heard your child read.